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2008 RNC to be first convention organized by women



The Republic National Convention comes to the Twin Cities in exactly 300 days and preparations have already begun. The 2008 convention will also mark a new milestone: It will be the first convention organized entirely by a group of women.

When the 40,000 people come to Minnesota next summer, they will have Maria Cino to thank.

"Every convention is historic and this too is historic," said Cino.

Cino is the CEO of the Republican National Convention and one of a record number of women in top leadership roles filling the convention's St. Paul offices.

"We had a lot of qualified women that do a great job who are being recognized for their work in the party," said Cino.

From policy makers to the Host Committee, it is clear women are the majority, but it is not by design.

"I think politics is really one of those things that it's equal opportunity. If you have a good mind and you are good at what you do, then you'll be promoted," said Director of Finance Jan McBride.

Another milestone for politics was 110 years ago when the first women were seated at the Republican Convention. That historic convention was also held in the Twin Cities.

"It was the first time that a woman spoke and addressed the convention and her message was simple, we're here to help, and we're here to stay," said Cino.